Renovation and Modernisation of Thermal and Hydro Power Stations in Andhra Pradesh

3524. Dr. DASARINARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corportion Ltd. is renovating and modernizing the existing thermal and hydor power generating stations in the State; and

(b) if so, what technical and financial assistance is being extended by the Union Government to the corporation?

THEMINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The proposal for Renovation and Modernization (R&M) of Thermal Power Stations as well as Hydro Power Plants of Andhra Pradesh Generation Corporation (APGENCO) recceived in Central Electricity Authority (CEA), are appraised by them and then sent with their recommendations to Power Finance Corporation (PFC) for funding. PFC have provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 229.21 crores upto 31-3-2003 for 26 schemes of APGENCO for R&M of Thermal and Hydro Power Stations.

Import of Power from Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan

3525. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import power from Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the present status of Bilateral Arrangements made with each of these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: (a) and (b) India-Nepal: Exchange of power between India and Nepal is taking place through low voltage interconnections with the bordering States of India i.e. Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at various points to feed the contiguous areas across the borders of the both the countries under the Indo-Nepal Power Exchange Agreement between the two countries.

India-Bhutan: India is importing power from Chukha Hydro Project (336 MW) and Kurichu Hydro Project (60 MW) under the agreements signed between Power Trading Corporation (earlier through Power Grid Corporation of India in

India and concerned agencies in Bhutan. On completion of Tala Hydro Project (1020 MW) in Bhutan scheduled to be commissioned by the year 2005J power shall also be imported from this project. India also supply power to Bhutan during the low hydro period for meeting loads in Bhutan.

India-Bangladesh & Pakistan: At present, there is no firm proposal for import of power from Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Utilisation of grant under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission by Kerala

3526. SHRI N. K PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Kerala failed to utilise the grant under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission during the previous financial years;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)the amount granted to Kerala during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 for the above purpose and the actual utilisation by the State Government and the reasons for further reduction of the grant;

(d)whether the Government of Kerala requested for allotment of entire grant due to Kerala for the last financial year; and

(e)if so the decision taken by Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL): (a) to (e) Details of allocation and releases made to the Government of Kerala under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 are as follows:

(Rs. in Lakh)

Year	Allocation	Release
2001-	6331.00	5045.00
2002	3698.00	1899.30

The State Government has not been in a position to get the entire amount released due to heavy opening balance with them. During the year 2001-2002, an amount of Rs. 1286 lakh was deducted on account of excess opening balance as on 1-4-2001. The allocation for the year 2002-2003 has been decided as per the revised criteria adopted in the ARWSP Guidelines giving increased weightage for Not-Covered/Partially Covered habitations and quality affected